

# **“Are Roller Coasters Safer than Planes and Trains?”**

***NO!***

## **Comparative Safety Record - 1997 Ranked by Relative Death Rate<sup>a</sup>**

	<u>Fatalities per 100 M Passenger Miles</u>	<u>Approx. Fed Safety Budget</u>
Automobiles	0.92	\$360 million <sup>b</sup>
<b>Roller Coasters</b>	<b>0.61<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>none</b>
Rail Passenger Trains	0.04	\$104 million <sup>d</sup>
Scheduled Airlines	0.01	\$987 million <sup>e</sup>
Buses	0.01	\$163 million <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Primary Source: National Safety Council, “Transportation Accident Comparisons”, Injury Facts 1999 Edition, p.122. All numbers not attributable to the National Safety Council are separately footnoted.

<sup>b</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

<sup>c</sup> Based on industry estimate of number of rides per year on fixed-site rides (900 million); avg. length of roller coasters in most-visited parks (2880 feet); number of fatalities in 1997 (3). Calculation:  $(900 \text{ mil} \times 2880) / 5280 = .491$  bill passenger miles;  $3 \text{ fatalities} / 4.91 = 0.61$  per 100 mill passenger miles.

<sup>d</sup> National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Railroad Administration.

<sup>e</sup> FAA and NTSB. Approximately 2/3 of NTSB’s \$50 million budget is for aviation, and 1/3 for surface transportation. This analysis assigns 1/2 of the \$16 million spent on surface transportation safety to trans, and 1/2 to buses.

<sup>f</sup> NTSB and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.